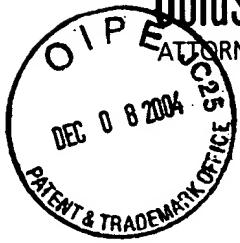




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*Admitted only in Maryland
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December 8, 2004

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**Mail Stop Amendment
Art Unit 2667**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/783,404; Filed: February 15, 2001
For: **Method, System And Computer Program Product
For Scheduling Upstream Communications**

Inventors: SALA *et al.*
Our Ref: 1875.0440002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; and
2. One return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Kendrick P. Patterson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,321

KPP/sjc
Enclosures



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SALA *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/783,404

Filed: February 15, 2001

For: **Method, System And Computer
Program Product For Scheduling
Upstream Communications**

Confirmation No.: 4785

Art Unit: 2667

Examiner: Hoang, Thai D.

Atty. Docket: 1875.0440002

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated September 8, 2004, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 7), Applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims; and
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent

abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.